

REMARKS

The Examiner rejected claims 47-58 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Serizawa in view of Tsuda. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

The patent to Serizawa relied on by the Examiner does not qualify as prior art under the law. The present invention claims priority under 35 U.S.C. § 120 from U.S. Patent Application Serial No.: 08/501,575, now U.S. Patent No. 5,663,957 (see Exhibit 7). The attached declaration from the named inventors and accompanying exhibits show that the subject matter of the '957 patent was described in a disclosure dated October 27, 1994. An application covering the claimed subject matter of the '957 patent was pursued with reasonable due diligence to filing, on or about July 12, 1995. The claimed subject matter of the present invention was also described in the disclosure dated October 27, 1994. For the Examiner's convenience, the following claim chart maps the pending claims to the disclosure.

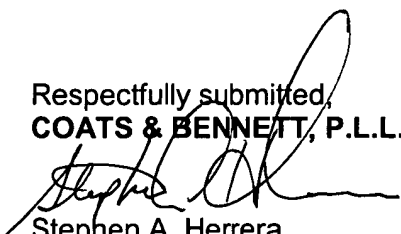
Claim	Disclosure (Exhibit 1)
47, 51, 55	Pg. 9, ll. 26-33
48, 52, 56	Pg. 9, ll. 26-27
49, 53, 57	Pg. 9, ll. 40-42
50, 54, 58	Pg. 4, ln. 35 – pg. 6, ln. 15

Thus, the present invention enjoys an effective invention date that pre-dates the June 20, 1995 filing date of the patent to Serizawa. The Serizawa patent does not qualify as prior art under § 102, and as such, the § 103 rejection based on the Serizawa

patent necessarily fails. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the allowance of claims 47-58.

By:

Respectfully submitted,
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